PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING SERIES

Finlayson Point Provincial Park

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

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Minister

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Deputy Minister

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING SERIES

FINLAYSON POINT PROVINCIAL PARK

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOREWORD

I am pleased to release this preliminary management plan for Finlayson Point Provincial Park. This management plan establishes policy for the future management, development, and use of Finlayson Point Provincial Park. It provides an understanding of the present situation of the park, why changes are necessary, and the specific changes that will be made.

I encourage you to read this plan in conjunction with the enclosed comment sheet and give us your views on the proposed policies for this area. Talk with my staff in the Temagami District Office or drop the comment sheet into the mail.

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1. THE PARK

Finlayson Point Provincial Park is located 1 km south of the town of Temagami adjacent to Highway 11 (see Figure 1). The park is within one hour's drive of North Bay and the Tri-Towns (New Liskeard, Haileybury, Cobalt). Development of the park began in the late 1920's as a small highway campground. The area received park status in 1942.

The landscape of this 37 ha park is a hilly series of rock ridges. A thin soil veneer of well drained silty sand covers this bedrock throughout most of the park. The forest cover varies depending on soil and moisture conditions. The prominent species are old, tall white and red pines along the rocky shoreline and scattered throughout the campground. Two small wetlands occur in the park.

Finlayson Point provides a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, picnicking, boating, fishing and swimming. The park serves as a 'stopover' point for visitors that are making Lake Temagami a vacation destination area and using the park as a base.

2. PARK POLICIES

2.1 CLASSIFICATION

Finlayson Point has been designated a recreation park because of its significant recreational setting, being situated on Lake Temagami and because of its potential for recreation development. The area has traditionally been used for recreation by both local residents and travellers. The small size of the park and the extent of facility development already in place precludes another designation.

2.2 GOAL

Recreation parks are areas which support a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for large numbers of people in attractive surroundings. Recreation parks contribute principally to the achievement of the recreation, heritage appreciation and tourism objectives.

2.3 OBJECTIVES

Protection

Although there are no provincially significant natural or cultural features within Finlayson Point, a basic objective will be to maintain the natural features which now exist. Management programs will be implemented to improve the natural attributes of the campground and park entrance. New development proposals will be carried out with minimum impact on the park's natural resources.

Recreation

"To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high intensity day use to low intensity wilderness experiences."

Park operation will continue to provide 5,000 day use opportunities and 31,300 car camping opportunities annually. Planning evaluations for the Temagami District Land Use Guidelines determined that additional opportunities will not be required for the next 20 years.

Heritage Appreciation

"To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario."

The park will offer structured opportunities for visitors to appreciate the natural and cultural features of the area. The park will continue to serve as a central point for interpreting natural and cultural themes in the Temagami area.

Tourism

"To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province."

Tourists travelling Highway 11 will continue to use park facilities. Through the guidance of the park marketing plan complementary area tourism marketing will promote the Temagami experience to park visitors.

2.4 BOUNDARY

Finlayson Point occupies a portion of a peninsula of land in Lake Temagami. Crown land and private property adjoin the park on the east, west and south sides. A small park area (37 ha) and intensive recreation use on these lands results in congestion of activities. This detracts from park visitor experiences and can interfere with services for permanent residents.

This plan proposes that the public comment on the current status of adjoining Crown lands by considering that a portion of these lands accommodate day use and scenic buffering needs of the park. Two areas of Crown land are proposed to be added to the park. These areas include the air base property on the west side of the park and the area of the boat houses on the southeast side of the park.

2.5 ZONING

One development zone is proposed to guide the management of this park (see Figure 2).

This zone is fully developed to provide day use and car camping opportunities required in the area. Within the zone facilities need upgrading to ensure that they are operated efficiently for park visitors and that high safety standards are achieved.

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Finlayson Point's small land base is highly developed and intensively used. Large, forest grown white and red pine are important aspects of the park environment as they contribute to the recreational setting.

3.1 VEGETATION

Deterioration of the forest cover has resulted from a variety of causes including direct removal of vegetation, distrubance of ground cover and soil compaction by vehicle and foot traffic which leads to soil erosion.

Ongoing rehabilitation is required to ensure that vegetation and soils are not further impaired by use. A vegetation management plan will identify appropriate measures to rehabilitate a healthy forest cover in the park.

4. CLIENT SERVICES

With the park being located on the edge of a vast lakeland recreation and tourism setting Finlayson Point has the potential to serve a wide clientele while complementing other recreation and tourism developments.

4.1 PARK IDENTITY AND IMAGE

The present name of the park does not adequately identify the park as it relates to the setting on Lake Temagami.

The name will be changed to Lake Temagami Provincial Park.

4.2 VISITOR SERVICES

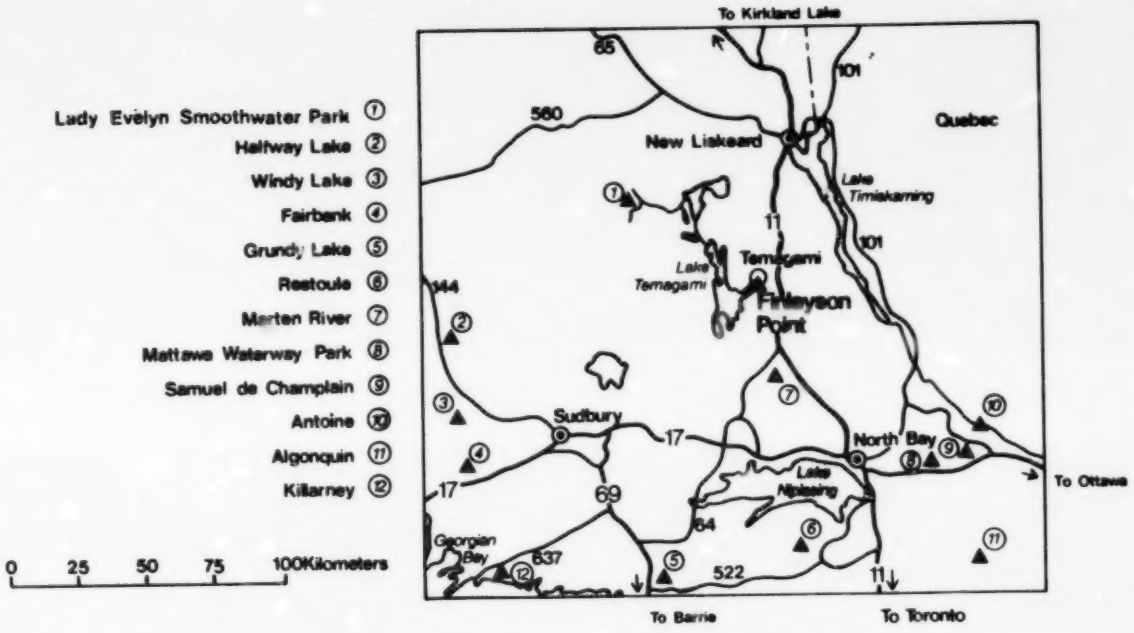
An important aspect of the park program objectives in the case of Finlayson Point can be achieved by providing information to the public on resource management and recreation skill development.

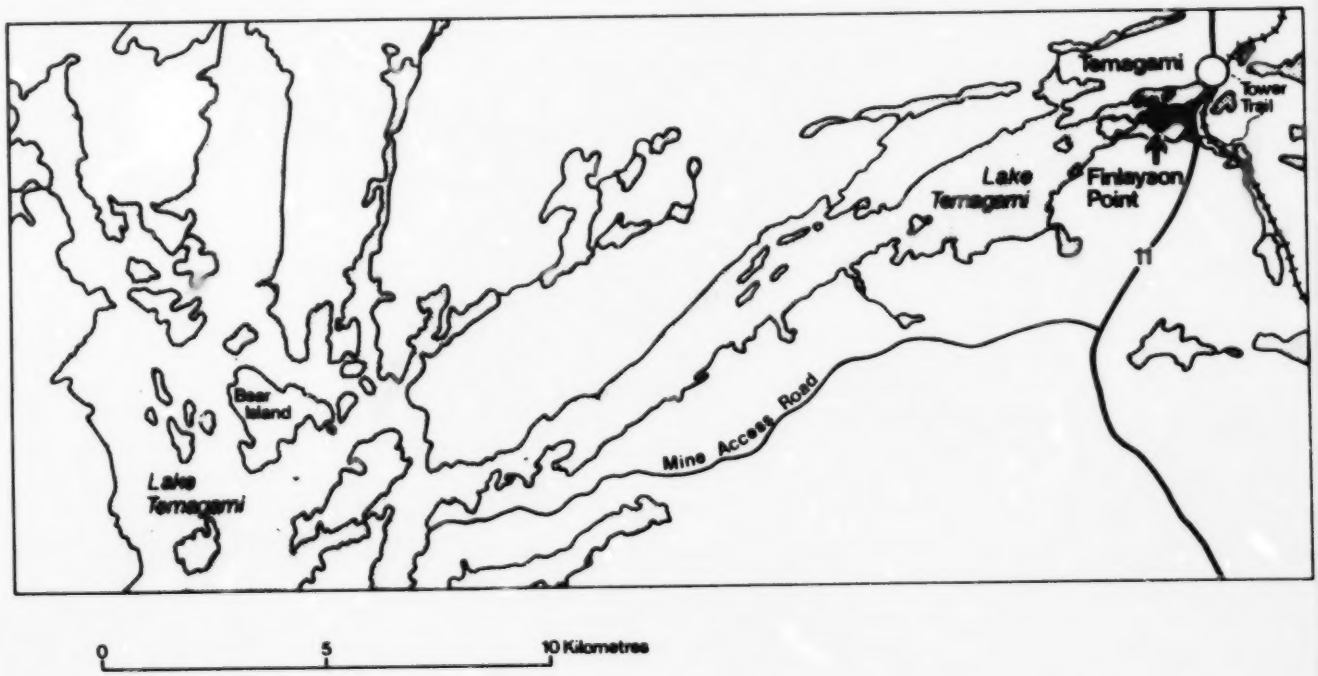
4.2.1 Communication

Information concerning park resources, management, facilities, programs, nearby points of interest should be easily available to the general public.

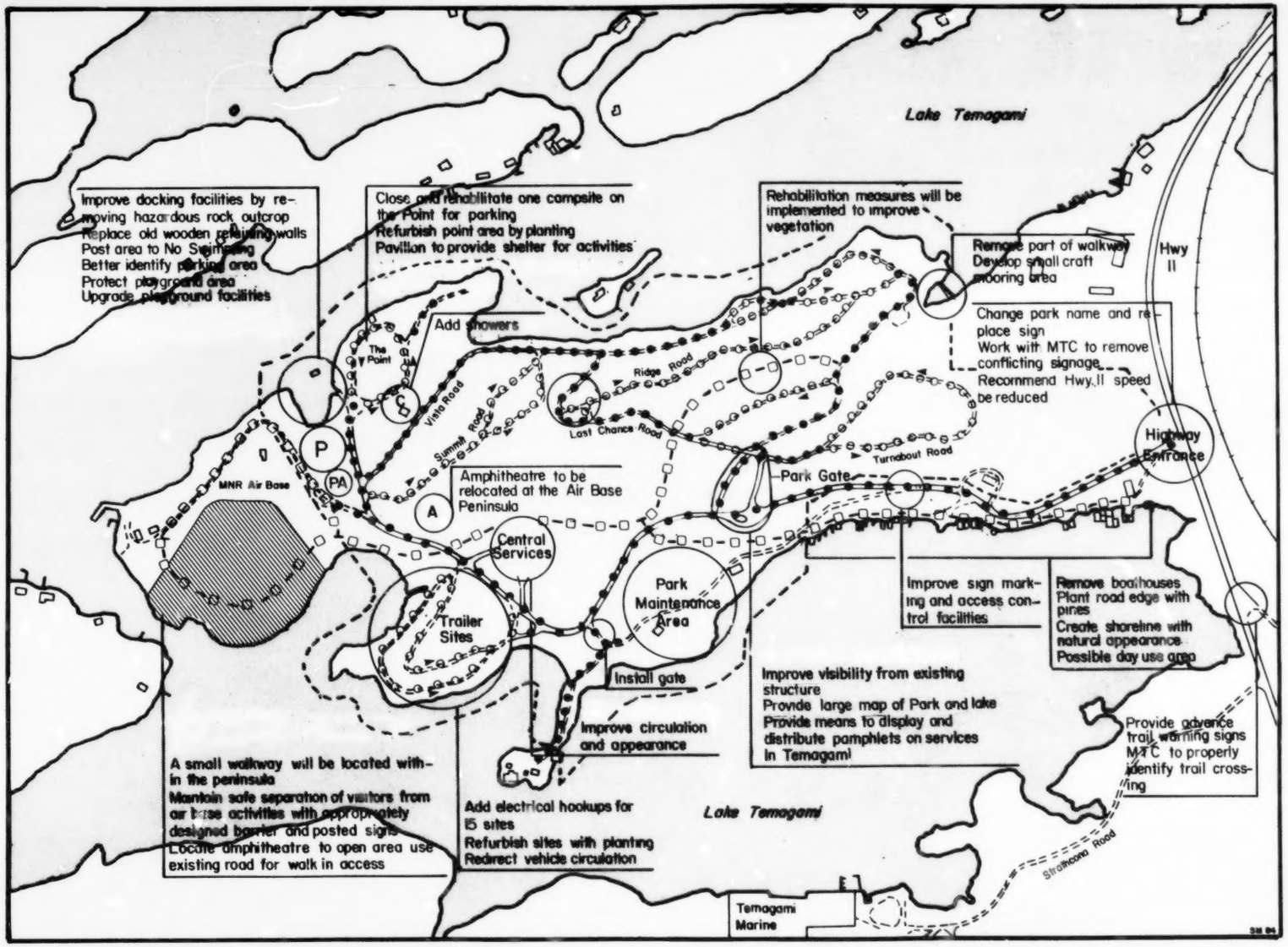
This information will be available at key points throughout the park such as the gate house, pavillion and on park bulletin boards.

Figure 1 Regional Context





DEVELOPMENT AND ZONING CONCEPT


Lake Temagami
Improve docking facilities by removing hazardous rock outcrop
Replace old wooden retaining walls
Post area to No Swimming
Better identify parking area
Protect playground area
Upgrade playground facilities
Close and rehabilitate one campsite on the Point for parking
Refurbish point area by planting
Pavilion to provide shelter for activities
Add showers
Rehabilitation measures will be implemented to improve vegetation
Remove part of walkway
Develop small craft mooring area
Change park name and replace sign
Work with MTC to remove conflicting signage
Recommend Hwy. 11 speed be reduced
Hwy 11
The Point
Vista Road
Summit Road
Ridge Road
Last Chance Road
Turnabout Road
Park Gate
Highway Entrance
MNR Air Base
Amphitheatre to be relocated at the Air Base Peninsula
Central Services
Trailer Sites
Park Maintenance Area
Improve sign marking and access control facilities
Remove boathouses
Plant road edge with pines
Create shoreline with natural appearance
Possible day use area
Install gate
Improve circulation and appearance
Improve visibility from existing structure
Provide large map of Park and lake
Provide means to display and distribute pamphlets on services in Temagami
Provide advance trail warning signs
MTC to properly identify trail crossing
A small walkway will be located within the peninsula
Maintain safe separation of visitors from air base activities with appropriately designed barrier and posted signs
Locate amphitheatre to open area use existing road for walk in access
Add electrical hookups for 15 sites
Refurbish sites with planting
Redirect vehicle circulation
Lake Temagami
Strathcona Road
Temagami Marine

DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Two way Traffic	●●●
One way Traffic	○○○
Amphitheatre	(A)
Existing Uses (minor changes and upgrading)	◯
Parking	(P)
Comfort Station	(C)
Play Area	(PA)
Possible Hiking Trail Locations	□□□

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREA

Finlayson Point Provincial Park

Figure 2

N

0 metres 200 400

4.2.2. Interpretation

Interpretive programs provide the opportunity to create a greater understanding of the natural, cultural and recreational values of the park and surrounding area.

Through personal contact interpretation of these values will be achieved by making use of facilities such as the pavilion and amphitheater. Generally, programs will be geared to self-use facilities, staff involvement will be organized based on program funding. Recreational opportunities such as boating, canoeing, fishing and hunting as well as resource related activities such as forestry, mining and trapping will be emphasized.

4.2.3 Education

The park provides an excellent opportunity for groups to make use of the outdoors for educational purposes.

The park will continue to encourage groups or individuals to use the park resources for educational purposes which are compatible with park policy and protection guidelines. Park staff will provide assistance with these programs when possible.

4.2.4 Marketing

Most campers stay at Finlayson Point for 1 or 2 days. The campground occupancy in 1983 was 49 percent and in 1982 was 57 percent which indicates that there is room for increasing visitation.

The objectives of the approved park marketing plan (1980) will be implemented. This will stress the variety of recreation and tourist opportunities to experience Lake Temagami. Ways of making the campground and day use area appeal to a longer stay by visitors will be discussed in the following section.

5. DEVELOPMENT

Development will proceed in accordance with Figure 2 and the following guidelines. The general theme of Park development will concentrate on visitor safety and the improvement of recreation facilities and services. Site Plans will be completed in advance of the rehabilitation of existing facilities or the development of new facilities. Development projects will be phased according to the Plan's Implementation and Review section. The requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act will be adhered to.

5.1 VISITOR SAFETY

Visitors entering the park and using services offered in the park should enjoy a safe visit.

5.1.1 Traffic Flows and Gatehouse

This facility, located 500 m from Highway 11 is the first contact with park visitors. The prospective visitor travels this distance and encounters one dangerous curve, two secondary roads and circulation problems at the gatehouse itself. This is the busiest portion of road in the park with outgoing visitors, private residents, persons using the boat houses and park vehicular traffic.

The distance to the gatehouse will be indicated on a sign along the road just after the park entrance sign. The dangerous curve before the MNR residence will be straightened. Secondary roads for non park use will be signed accordingly. Campground and day use traffic flows

will be improved by providing some one-way traffic and a consistent sign system will be developed based on the MNR Sign Design Guidelines. In this way, traffic pressure should be relieved where pedestrians congregate and at vehicle intersections (e.g. Last Chance, Turn About and Ridge Road). The gate house may be remodelled to provide an adequate field of vision of approaching traffic. Realignment of the road at the gate house may be required to improve traffic flow and safety. General park visitor traffic will be directed away from the boat basin/ swimming area.

5.1.2 Boat Basin/Swimming Area

The activities of park visitors luanching boats, day use swimming and Lake Temagami boating traffic can conflict with one another.

Car parking in the area will be redesigned to separate congestion with incoming and outgoing traffic and pedestrian day use. The playground will be separated by barriers from vehicle traffic. Day use swimming will be phased out of this site when a suitable atlernate location can be developed.

5.2 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Even in a small park, which is developed to the extent that Finalyson is, visitors anticipate high quality services. The following section proposes management with high provincial park standards to be implemented through annual work program planning and the park management/ operating plan.

5.2.1 Picnic and Playground Areas

Both facilities are in close proximity to the main park road and the MNR Air Base adjacent to the park. The existing structures require upgrading and there is sufficient space to expand them if required.

Barriers will be installed to separate these areas from vehicular traffic. All structures in these areas will be maintained to keep them sound. The space will be kept uncluttered to ensure room for expansion as demand warrants.

5.2.2 Trailer Sites

The layout of these sites can result in hazardous entrance and exit from campground roads. Visitors continually request electrical hook-ups.

A site plan will be prepared for these sites to redesign entrance and exit lanes. Electrical hook-ups will be identified as an upgraded service requirement to enhance use of the campground.

5.2.3 Parking

Existing parking facilities are limited in the campground and day use areas. Aside from the Boat Basin lot other areas are quite restricted.

Where possible, existing parking lots will be redesigned to efficiently use available space. Parking will be provided adjacent to the pavilion for the use of visitors at that facility.

5.2.4 Pavilion

This building has been converted from a picnic shelter to serve a wider purpose. Situated overlooking the northeast arm of Lake Temagami, it is a vantage point for visitor services programming and an area museum.

Continue to use it as an interpretive centre and museum. Winter use will be encouraged to shelter activities in the park (e.g. cross-country skiing).

5.2.5 Amphitheater

The facility is located in a wooded area adjacent to a wetland. In this situation, limited air circulation results in an abundance of insects. An alternate site could be sought to improve the setting of this facility as it is used for evening visitor services programs when conditions are the worst for annoying insects.

Consideration will be given to find an alternate site that is more suited to provide an open setting where air circulation reduces insect problems.

5.2.6 Boat Basin

This small cove is the focal point for several park and non park water based activities: boat launching and dockage, swimming, sun bathing and relaxation.

A retaining wall and docks are in need of repair and during seasonally low water levels, use is restricted by shallow water over a rock shoal.

Priority for use will be given to boating needs. The dock and retaining wall will be upgraded. The feasibility of removing rock from the shoal will be examined. Alternate areas for day use swimming will be examined to relocate this activity to a safer location. Once a suitable alternate site is found the basin will be posted to "No Swimming".

5.2.7 Small Craft Mooring Area

This area was previously developed as a wading pool. Problems with infilling by emergent and submerged acquatic plants, poor sun exposure, proximity of a park road and the lack of demonstrated use has resulted in the decision to convert this area into a small craft mooring area. Pool structures will be removed from the cove. A site plan will be prepared to develop a small craft mooring area for park visitors' power and sail boats. This will take some pressure off the boat basin docking demands. Acquatic growth will naturally be reduced by opening up lake currents to the area.

5.2.8 Comfort Station

The need for showers in the Park was the most common visitor comment reported in the 1980 Finlayson Point Marketing Plan.

Showers are proposed for the park. The sewage disposal capability of the comfort station will be assessed prior to submitting a funding proposal. Should it not be capable of handling this additional activity alternate sites will be studied.

5.2.9 Central Services Area

Facilities in the area include wood yard, trailer filling station, trailer pump out and central garbage disposal. The location of these services opposite the trailer sites along the main access road is suitable. The space taken up by the facilities is excessive due to poor layout and ambiguous circulation.

The layout of these facilities will be redesigned with a site plan to reduce the space they take up and a clear circulation pattern will be established. Additional trailer dumping facilities may be needed here should present levels of use increase.

6. EXTERNAL LAND USES

Development and intensive land uses occur on Crown and private land outside but adjacent to the park boundary. Although external to the park these uses can cause park management and operational problems.

6.1 ADJOINING CROWN LANDS

Crown lands east, south and west of the park are used for a variety of government and private individuals' purposes. Two areas of Crown land are proposed to be added to the park.

6.1.1 Air Base

MNR requirements for a float plane and helicopter base will continue on the furthest end of the point west of the park. There are areas on the Crown land that are undeveloped that could be used by park visitors for park management. A natural area adjacent to the park could provide a setting for a day use self guided hiking trail. An open area on the point is a suitable alternate site for the amphitheater. It is more open and as such would be better suited to evening programming with fewer insects to bother people.

Add this area to the park. Develop a walking trail into the natural area beginning and ending in the park. This would enhance recreation, tourism and heritage appreciation objectives of the park by enabling visitors to experience a natural setting not congested by other uses.

Consider relocating the amphitheater into the cleared, lawn area east of the air base.

6.1.2 Land Use Permits for Private Boat Houses

Boat houses, visible from Highway 11 and south of the entrance road before the gatehouse conflict with visitors' image of a park being public land, even though the boat houses are on Crown land outside the park. Some of the boat houses are in deteriorated condition and unsightly to potential park visitors. As well, the land use permits tie up valuable waterfront land adjacent to the park that could be used for activities that are congested in the park: swimming, picnicking, boat launching and docking.

The LUP's for boat houses will not be renewed after March 31, 1990. This will enable MNR to return the area to a more natural setting with the intent of adding it to the park.

This shoreline, with its south facing aspect could be an ideal site to develop as an alternate swimming and wading area. This would improve the quality of these activities for park visitors using the congested, unsafe and unsatisfactory facilities in the Boat Basin and Wading Pool.

6.1.3 Pedestrian Access Along Highway 11 to the Park

Located just one kilometer south of Temagami, it is convenient for people to walk or bicycle along Highway 11 to the park.

To reduce potential hazards to persons who would walk or bicycle into the park MNR will work with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications to reduce the highway speed in this area and have it posted with MTC "Watch for Pedestrians" signs.

6.1.4 Hiking Trail East of Highway 11

There is no suitable area for a hiking trail in the park. The Caribou Tower Trail on Crown land east of the park is being developed to provide a route to a high viewpoint over Lake Temagami.

A trail will be developed linking the park to the Caribou Tower Trail. Signs will caution hikers of the highway crossing. The Caribou Tower Trail will be completed.

6.2 ADJOINING PRIVATE LANDS

6.2.1 Trail on Private Land

An adhoc trail has developed on private land occupied by a motel east of the wading pool area.

This trail will be discontinued at the park and park visitors will be discouraged from using it.

6.2.2 Access to Private Residence

A private residence on the south shore of Finlayson Point uses the park road for access.

This access will be discontinued. The resident will be instructed to use the park service road.

7. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Implementation of an approved management plan will involve the preparation of vegetation management plan and site plans to upgrade and develop approved facilities. Work program planning and funding proposals will be based on the implementation of these aspects of the plan with the following priorities.

7.1 PRIORITY 1: SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION

7.1.1 Resource Management

. vegetation management planning to identify ongoing planting needs and rehabilitation measures.

7.1.2 Client Services

. name change to Lake Temagami Provincial Park;
. continue to follow park marketing plan;
. prepare an area visitor services plan to maximize contact with park visitors to inform them about Lake Temagami's area of interest by using displays in the gatehouse and comfort station; programs at the amphitheater and pavilion.

7.1.3 Development

. upgrade signs throughout the park;
. remove dangerous curve on entrance road;
. realign present road circulation by providing some one-way traffic areas;
. prepare a site plan for the Central Services Area;
. prepare a site plan for the Boat Basin area to separate potentially conflicting uses, evaluate Crown land on south shore for an alternate day use swimming area;
. prepare a site plan for Wading Pool cove as a boat mooring area;
. replace deteriorated picnic and playground facilities adjacent to Boat Basin, buffer area from road traffic;
. prepare a trail plan integrating natural and scenic areas of park and adjoining Crown land;
. continue to use the pavilion as a park interpretive centre and area museum and provide day use parking here by phasing out one adjoining campsite.

7.1.4 External Land Uses

. evaluate swimming potential of Crown land shoreline south of park currently used for private boat houses;
. discontinue trail from private land east of park;
. the private residence south of the park will continue to use the park entrance road;
. consult with MTC to reduce Highway 11 traffic speeds between Temagami and the park and post "Watch for Pedestrians" signs to encourage safe pedestrian and bicycle use to park.
. LUP's for boat houses on Crown land south of the park will not be renewed as of March 31, 1990 and all improvements on these lands will be removed before the area is added to the park;
. the park boundary will be changed to regulate Crown land west of the park, excluding the Air Base, as well as the Crown land previously held as LUP's for boat houses south of the park.

7.2 PRIORITY 2: LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION

7.2.1 Development

. remodel gatehouse and road circulation here to ensure clear viewing by gate attendants and motorists;
. expand existing car parking capacity in the campground and day use areas by first upgrading existing parking areas and secondly by providing new areas adjacent to the Boat Basin as needs warrant;

. install showers in comfort station;
. prepare site plan for the trailer sites in the campground redesigning entrance and exit lanes and examining the feasibility of developing some electrical sites.

7.2.2 External Land Uses

. when the area which is presently held in land use permits for boat houses is reclaimed and that Crown land is added to the park it will be evaluated through site planning to provide swimming, picnicking, boat launching and docking as well as trail linkage for the Caribou Tower Trail;
. if suitable alternate sites exist as above, develop them and turn over other areas to priority uses (e.g. remove day use recreation swimming from Boat Basin; provide boat mooring in Wading Pool Cove, etc.);
. prepare a site plan for Crown lands west of the park to the Air Base once it has been added to the park and relocate the amphitheater in an open area for evening programming and provide self guided walking trail through the natural area.

7.3 PLAN REVIEW

Once approved, Finalyson Point Provincial Park Management Plan will be reviewed at a minimum of over ten years or as the need is determined by the Regional Director. The review will be conducted in the following manner:

. review of the process leading to the initial management plan;
. update of background information and data about the park resources and use;
. review the status of implementation of the approved management plan and provincial policies;
. identify OMNR, other agencies and public issues of concern;
. prepare issues and suggested solutions document for public review;
. review proposed revisions recommended by the public;
. prepare and receive approval for plan ammendment.

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